



4 FOOD PACKAGE/DRAFT ISSUANCE

Effective 3/1/98

4.20 Homeless Food Packages for Children and Women

Revised: 11/1/98

POLICY: The WIC homeless food package is to be provided only to women and children participants defined as homeless (see Policy 2.1-2 Other Residences in the Income/Categorical Eligibility Section) and do not have a stove, refrigerator, or water or have limited access to a stove, refrigerator or water.

PROCEDURE:

A. HOMELESS FOOD PACKAGES

All CPAs need to be familiar with the contents of the Homeless Food Packages. These differ from the other women's and children's packages in that they contain:

1. Different foods or packaging:
 - a) Canned mature beans and peas (instead of dry), which are opened easily and readily edible.
 - b) Juice in the 6 ounce cans, single strength (instead of 12-oz frozen or 46-oz containers), which allow for consumption in serving sizes and prevent spoilage.
 - c) Tuna, packed in oil or water, in the 3- and 3 1/4-ounce cans (for the homeless breastfeeding enhanced package only), which allows the possibility of consumption in a serving size.
 - d) Quarts of fluid milk, instead of primarily gallons, which is more likely to be consumed than powdered milk and which can be consumed in a day to avoid spoilage. The total milk equivalents were based on the most commonly issued packages, so these packages contain less than the maximum. Additional milk may be issued if needed.
 - e) 24 ounces of peanut butter, instead of eggs, which needs no preparation in order to be consumed.
2. Different draft messages and combination of drafts:
 - a) Six drafts in a package accommodate storage, spoilage, and transportation issues.
 - b) Each draft offers a variety of food groups and food forms on each draft.



3. Number of automated packages. The available automated packages were based on the most frequently issued regular food packages. There are 4 homeless food packages: one for women who may receive a Breastfeeding Enhanced package, one for pregnant women and breastfeeding women who may receive a breastfeeding basic package, one for postpartum nonbreastfeeding women, and one for children.

B. APPROVAL REQUIRED

A CPA must determine the need for and select the appropriate Homeless food package.

C. DETERMINATION OF NEED

Even though a participant may be homeless, they may or may not need a homeless package. Determine if they have access to a stove (which would permit issuance of eggs and dried beans and peas), refrigerator (which would allow issuance of gallons of milk, 12-oz frozen and 46-oz containers of juice, and large cans of tuna), and water (would allow issuance of frozen juice).

1. If the participant has access to a stove, refrigerator, and water, a regular food package (selected per other appropriate food package selection policies) is recommended.
2. If the participant does not have access to a stove, refrigerator, and water, issue the appropriate homeless food package. See the Food Package Tailoring/Selection Chart (Homeless Food Packages section) for the available automated packages.
 - a) Since the Homeless packages contain less than the maximum total milk equivalent quantity (because they were based on the most common food package issued in each participant group), a additional 2 quarts of milk may be issued to pregnant and breastfeeding women, and an additional 2-6 quarts of milk may be issued to children, if the CPA determines a need.
 - b) Assess the availability of a cooler when giving food storage advice for either of these packages.

D. DOCUMENTATION

Document the need for a homeless food package in the participant's file (e.g., on the Risk Factor/Flow Sheet).

E. REASSESSMENT

Determine with the participant when to reassess the food package. A homeless participant may receive one, two, or three months of food packages, based on their anticipated living situation.